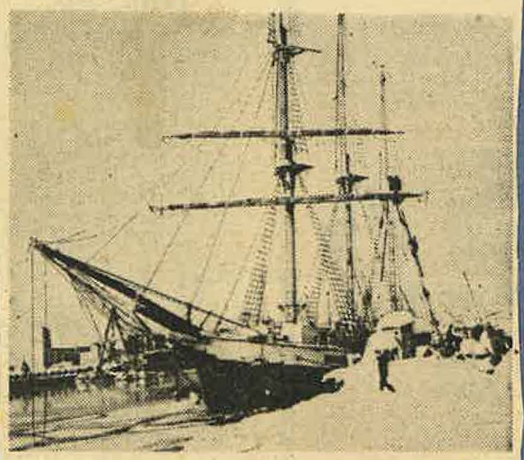
Sailing ship mystery



The Regina Maris during repairs at Christiansand, Norway.

SYDNEY, Sat.—The whereabouts of the Norwegian sailing ship Regina Maris is still a mystery.

The ship was due in Sydney today, but there is no indication that she has even reached Australian waters.

The Sydney and Melbourne coastal radio stations have heard no word from the tiny clipper. No ships or planes have reported sighting her.

The Regina Maris was last seen when she left Capetown on April 19.

A weather Bureau spokesman said today rough seas have been reported from Bass Strait since last Tuesday. Wind speeds of 30 knots have been recorded.

There was speculation earlier in the week that the Regina Maris would put into Jervis Bay for painting.

Three other sailing ships, the Esmeralda, the Dewarutji and the Gloria slipped into Jervis Bay unexpectedly on their way to Sydney.

But Commander P. Kennedy, officer commanding the Royal Naval College, said today he had heard nothing of the ship.

He said, "If the Regina Maris was in the locality I would have been informed. No one here has been contacted in reference to the ship.

There has been contact with the ship since she left Capetown over a month ago.

A naval spokesman said today that as the ship was privately owned and not a naval training vessel as were the other sailing ships which visited Sydney for the bicentenary celebrations, it was not an RAN responsibility.

He said naval radio bases had not picked up any signals from the ship.

Severe storm

The Regina Maris has been dogged with misfortune since leaving Plymouth in September.

It was intended that the 149 foot clipper Barquentine should trace the route of Captain Cook's Endeavour and arrive in Sydney in time for April celebrations.

The ship ran into a violent electrical storm off Madeira in the Canary Islands on October 13. Lightning splintered the ship's main mast which crashed to the deck tearing away the mizzen mast and ripping the rigging.

A small freighter towed the disabled ship hundreds of miles north till she was able to make her home port in Norwap under her own power.

In a dramatic race against the northern winter carpenters worked round the clock to repair the damaged vessel—see picture.

The Regina Maris slipped out of port on her second attempt to reach Sydney only hours before the Norwegian coastline was banked with thick ice chocking the northern shipping routes.

The three masted vessel has a crew of 25. Thirteen members of the crew are under 18 years old.

Sailing ship's crew unaware of concern

ALBANY, Sun.—The master and crew of the 149 ft. sailing ship Regina Maris did not know till they arrived in Albany today that concern had been felt for their safety in bad weather on the voyage from South Africa.

Capt. Ag Wilson said that the ship had encountered bad weather for most of the voyage.

But, he was not concerned for the safety of the ship or the 19 members of the crew.

There was no reason for him to radio authorities in Australia.

Capt. Wilson had his share of violent weather when he first tried to sail the Regina Maris to Australia around Cape Horn last year.

A thunderbolt struck the ship during an electrical storm off the Canary Islands in October and damaged her so badly that the voyage was discontinued.

She was taken in tow by another ship and returned to her home port in Norway for repairs.

Later she set out again for Australia, taking the shorter route around the Cape of Good Hope.

Capt. Wilson has a Panamanian passport, but says that his heart is in Norway.

RECOGNITION

He has won recognition as a Cape Horn mariner.

Just over six years ago he was master of the Regina Maris when she rounded the Horn to earn the title of albatross, the highest rank of the Cape Horn Club.

him for the feat is fluttering from a small flagstaff on the bow sprit.

The three-masted Regina Maris carries 33 sails when under full rig.

Capt. Wilson said that his visit to Albany for stores and water was more leisurely because he had missed the Captain Cook bicentenary celebrations through storms after leaving Cape Town about four weeks ago.

The Regina Maris will continue her voyage to Sydney on Tuesday.

The master and crew were given a civic reception today.

Indians given $4.1m. for land

NEW YORK, Sun: The Winnebago Indian Tribe of Nebraska yesterday accepted a $4.1 million compromise settlement with the U.S. Government for land in six States.

The result was announced after a vote by about 200 Indians at Winnebago High School. —A.A.P.

Man killed in mine

KALGOORLIE, Sun: A man was killed when he was pinned beneath a diesel-powered vehicle 900 feet underground yesterday.

He was William Raymond Louder (32), electrician, married, of Austral-road, Kalgoorlie.

He was working at the Mt. Charlotte mine, operated by Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie, about 2.15 p.m. when the vehicle hit a wall and overturned, trapping him.

He was dead on arrival at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital.